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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0579
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: IRELAND AWAITING EU DISCUSSION ON SMALLPOX

REF: STATE 71569

Ireland will await discussion with other EU Member States before taking a position on the proposed eradication of smallpox virus stocks, according to Teresa Cody, Department of Health and Children Principal Officer for Public Health, with whom emboff discussed reftel demarche on May 8 and 10. Cody noted that Ireland had not yet received the official agenda and accompanying documents for the May 22-27 World Health Assembly (WHA). The only information available to the GOI on the smallpox proposal at the moment was reftel points.

Ireland hoped to receive WHA information on the proposal soon and would take up discussion with other Member States in the lead-up to the WHA. Cody added that she did not know the direction in which Member States were leaning on the smallpox virus proposal, but would inform us if the EU position were to become clearer.

Kenny